

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS


Claims 1-37 (canceled).

Claim 38 (new) A process comprising reacting boron-derivative functional groups and halide functional groups in a reaction mixture, the boron-derivative functional groups being selected from the group consisting of a boronic acid group, a boronic ester group and a borane group, wherein the reaction mixture comprises a catalytic amount of a suitable reaction catalyst and an organic base including a tetraalkyl ammonium entity in an amount sufficient to convert the boron-derivative functional groups into $-BX_3^-$ anionic groups, wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH.

Claim 39 (new) A process comprising reacting boron-derivative functional groups and halide functional groups, including the steps of preparing under non-reaction conditions an organic cation salt of the boron-derivative functional groups by the reaction thereof with an organic base in an amount sufficient to convert the boron-derivative groups into boronate anionic groups ($-B(X)_3^-$), wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH, and then reacting the boronate anionic groups with halide functional groups in the presence of a suitable reaction catalyst.

Claim 40 (new) A process according to claim 38, wherein X is OH.

Claim 41 (new) A process according to claim 39, wherein X is OH.

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Claim 42 (new) A process according to claim 38, wherein at least 1.5 equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

Claim 43 (new) A process according to claim 42, wherein at least two equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

Claim 44 (new) A process according to claim 38, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of tetraalkylammonium carbonates, tetraalkylammonium bicarbonates and tetraalkylammonium hydroxides.

Claim 45 (new) A process according to claim 39, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of tetraalkylammonium carbonates, tetraalkylammonium bicarbonates and tetraalkylammonium hydroxides.

Claim 46 (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the organic base comprises $R'R''R'''R''''NOH$, wherein R' , R'' , R''' and R'''' are each independently C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups.

Claim 47 (new) A process according to claim 45, wherein the organic base comprises $R'R''R'''R''''NOH$, wherein R' , R'' , R''' and R'''' are each independently C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups.

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Claim 48 (new) A process according to claim 46, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of $(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{NOH}$, $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{NOH}$ and $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7)_4\text{NOH}$.

Claim 49 (new) A process according to claim 47, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of $(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{NOH}$, $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{NOH}$ and $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7)_4\text{NOH}$.

Claim 50 (new) A process according to claim 38, wherein the organic base is a tetraalkylammonium carbonate or a tetraalkylammonium bicarbonate.

Claim 51 (new) A process according to claim 39, wherein the organic base is a tetraalkylammonium carbonate or a tetraalkylammonium bicarbonate.

Claim 52 (new) A process of according to claim 38, wherein the organic base is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an inorganic base.

Claim 53 (new) A process of according to claim 39, wherein the organic base is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an inorganic base.

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